

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Yamazaki, et al. Art Unit : 2629
Serial No. : 09/954,694 Examiner : Regina Liang
Filed : September 11, 2001 Conf. No. : 8590
Title : ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND METHOD OF USAGE THEREOF

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REPLY TO ACTION OF AUGUST 30, 2006

In reply to the Office Action of August 30, 2006, applicant submits the following remarks.

Claims 1-128 are pending, with claims 1-12 and 69-78 being independent. Claims 2-8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22-28, 30, 31, and 33-128 have been withdrawn, leaving claims 1, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 29, and 32 (including independent claims 1, 9, and 12) under consideration.

Claims 1, 9, 12, 13, 16, 21, 29, and 32 have been rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,784,874 (Shimazu) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,616,936 (Misawa). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because neither Shimazu, Misawa, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests a plurality of operation keys, with each of the plurality of operation keys including a pixel portion formed below a button and a gate driver circuit and a source driver circuit for controlling the pixel portion, as recited in each of independent claims 1, 9, and 12, and because one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Shimazu with the teachings of Misawa.

Shimazu relates to a liquid crystal touch panel 1 having a cover member 24 with transparent key top portions 12 positioned over spring portions 18 over a click plate 19. Each of the spring portions 18 includes a movable contact 8. See Shimazu at col. 6, lines 43-65 and col. 8, lines 1-24 and Fig. 3. The touch panel 1 includes a circuit board 17 between the click plate 19 and a liquid crystal display element 2 and the circuit board 17 includes stationary contacts 10. See Shimazu at col. 8, lines 1-30 and Fig. 3. The liquid crystal display element 2 includes display portions 11 that align with the key top portions 12, the movable contacts 8, and the stationary contacts 10. See Shimazu at col. 6, lines 58-65 and Fig. 3. During operation, a user